

Intimations.

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor Owners will be responsible for any Debts contracted by the Officers or Crew of the following Vessels, during their stay in Hongkong Harbour:—

CRITERION, American ship, Captain W. Lull.—Stamson & Co.

ALPHINGTON, British barque, Captain G. Cunningham.—Wheeler & Co.

CLYDE, British ship, Captain E. Shrewsbury.—Wheeler & Co.

FERRET, British steamer, Capt. J. H. von Bagen.—Chinese.

COLORADO, American ship, Captain Ingraham.—Russell & Co.

KATE GARNIE, British barque, Captain James Wilson.—Melchers & Co.

BROOMHALL, British ship, Captain H. Bate.—Russell & Co.

JACATRA, Dutch brig, Captain Dirksen.—Stamson & Co.

CHARLES OAK, American ship, Captain Stiplos.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

RAJANATHAN, British str., Captain Hopkins.—Yuen Fat Hong.

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAMSUI.

The Steamship "HAILONG,"

Captain J. C. Abbott, will be despatched for the above Ports on WEDNESDAY, the 14th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFFRAK & Co.

Hongkong, November 12, 1877. no14

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANCAIS.

The Company's Steamship "TIBET,"

Comdt. DE GRAND, will be despatched for YOKOHAMA shortly after the arrival of the next French Mail.

H. DU POUY, Agent.

Hongkong, November 12, 1877.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANCAIS.

The Company's Steamship "PEI HO,"

Comdt. LECOURT, will be despatched for SHANGHAI shortly after her arrival from Europe.

H. DU POUY, Agent.

Hongkong, November 12, 1877.

NOTICE.

DURING my short Absence from Hongkong, Mr. F. PANIZZA will kindly conduct my Business.

A. HAHN, Piano-forte Tuner and Repairer.

Hongkong, November 12, 1877. no19

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Nov. 11, F. H. Dreyer, German barque, 623, Vorsatz, Rajang Oct. 16, Timber.—CHINESE.

Nov. 11, Papillon, French barque, 458, Gouin, Newchwang Oct. 26, Beans.—CRAWFORD & CO.

Nov. 11, Hailong, British steamer, 277, J. C. Abbott, Tamsui Nov. 3, Amoy 9, and Swatow 10, Tea and General.—DOUGLAS LAFFRAK & CO.

Nov. 11, Emerald, British steamer, 395, R. Oullen, Amoy Nov. 10, General.—J. Y. V. SHAW.

Nov. 11, Shen-chi, Chinese R. C., from a Cruise.

Nov. 11, Viscount McDuff, British 8-m. schooner, 289, W. Wright, Halphong Oct. 26, Rice.—HING SING YEE.

Nov. 12, Glauco, British steamer, 1647, T. S. Jackson, Shanghai Nov. 2, via Foochow 6, and Amoy 11, Tea and General.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Nov. 12, Amazon, French steamer, 2650, Montmart, Shanghai Nov. 9, Mail and General.—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

Nov. 12, Tibre, French steamer, 1009, de Gerard, Yokohama Nov. 6, Mail and General.—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

Nov. 12, Cassandra, German steamer, 937, Langer, Saigon Nov. 8, Rice and General.—W. PRINCE & CO.

Nov. 12, Fenice, British steamer, 652, J. Cain, Saigon Nov. 6, Salt.—MORCHES & CO.

DEPARTURES.

Nov. 11, Woodville, for London.

11, Lord of the Isles, for Takow.

11, Maria, for Saigon.

11, Gueciels, for Singapore.

11, Norma, for Swatow.

11, Yesso, for Coast Ports.

11, Diomed, for Shanghai.

12, Emerald, for Manila.

12, Golden Horn, for Shanghai.

12, Chocula, for Malbourne.

CLEARED.

H. S. Sanford, for New York.

Falcons, for Bangkok.

India, for Hilo.

Swatow-Ballough, for Saigon.

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Flieho, Mrs Turner and 2 children, Messrs Fairs Nicolas, W. Manney, and 6 Chinese. Per Tibre, from Yokohama: for Hongkong, Messrs May, Bickham, Cox and servant, James W. Woodville (Minister for Holland), and 1 Chinese. Per Port Said, Mrs O'Leary, Per Marcella, Messrs Ferrer, Blid, Bagnoll, Civetta, Mozetti, Otollin, Eaton, Gavala, and Mourier. Per Emerald, from Amoy, 196 Chinese. Per Viscount McDuff, from Halphong, 3 Chinese.

DEPARTED. Per Norma, for Swatow, Mr P. A. Beltrio, and 70 Chinese. Per Chocula, for Malbourne, Captain Robertson. Per Emerald, for Manila, 176 Chinese. Per Lord of the Isles, for Takow, 1 European.

TO DEPART. Per Palestine, for Bangkok, 20 Chinese. Per Fong-a-Ballough, for Saigon, 5 Chinese. Per Starlight, for Bangkok, 20 Chinese. Per Alva, for Malbourne, 1 European and 3 Chinese. Per Hailong, for Swatow, 100 Chinese. Per Angustura, for Saigon, 20 Chinese.

SHIPPING REPORTS. The German barque F. H. Dreyer reports: First part of passage light winds and calm, and latter part strong N.E. winds and heavy sea. The British steamer Emerald reports: Moderate monsoon and fine weather throughout. In Amoy: H.M.S. Magpie and steamer Douglas and Namoa.

The British 3-masted schooner Viscount McDuff reports: First part of passage fresh N.W. winds to the South of Hainan, thence to North Danger moderate breeze and remainder of passage light variable winds, with strong current setting S.W. The French steamer Amazon reports: Fine weather throughout.

The British steamer Pendo reports: Left Saigon Nov. 8th. In port S. S. Maharajah and Russian ship Jolo. Had light winds and calm with heavy rain to Padang. Thence to port strong monsoon and high sea.

Shipping Intelligence.

The following is corrected from the latest London and Colonial Papers:—

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

AT HONGKONG.

When left. Name. From. Remarks.

May 10, David, Antwerp.

11, Neworth, Antwerp.

12, Obando, Cardiff.

13, Alstro, Malbourne.

14, Martha Jackson, Penarth.

15, Alexandra, Liverpool.

16, O. R. Bishop, Falmouth.

June 7, Ferdinand Brumm, Portsmouth.

18, Henry Lippett, New York.

19, City of Halifax, Cardiff.

July 2, Northampton, Baltimore.

10, Niagara, Ouxhaven.

12, Jessie Jamieson, Cardiff.

14, Abernethy, Liverpool.

15, Carl Ritter, Deal.

20, Globe, Cardiff.

30, Ferdinand, Cardiff.

31, R. C. Rickners, Newport.

Aug. 10, Papa, Cardiff.

11, North Star, Cardiff.

11, E. P. Bourville, Penarth.

12, Regulus, Cardiff.

14, Moss Glen, Penarth.

14, Patrie, Cardiff.

17, John Potts, New York.

19, Felix Mendelssohn, London.

23, Hotspur, Antwerp.

27, Charger, Liverpool.

28, India, Hamburg.

Sept. 3, Andreas, Flushing Roads.

4, Humbolt, New York.

7, Isola, Flushing Roads.

8, Gatherer, Cardiff.

10, River Lagan, Cardiff.

15, G. F. Muntz, Newport.

18, Wildwood, Liverpool.

20, Diomed (s.), Liverpool.

21, F. J. Carleton, Cardiff.

22, Barkaway, Liverpool.

23, Victoria (s.), Liverpool.

23, Fidelio, Hamburg.

25, Maria Kavano, Penarth.

AT AMOY.

23, O. F., Cardiff.

27, Maxima, Swanes.

Sept. 1, Carl Wilhelm, Cardiff.

LOADING FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

At London.—Steamers via Suez Canal.

Gordon Castle, Cyprian.

Nomada, State of Alabama.

Zanzibar, Altona.

Bertha, Bertha.

Sailing Vessels.

Eliza Shaw, Abbey Town.

Johann Smith, Lodore.

At Liverpool.

Menelais (s.), Sarpedon (s.).

Achilles (s.), Cashmere.

CARGO.

Per British barque Woodville, for London.

called 10th November, 1877.—591 bales

Punjun Silk, 1,876 bales Waste Silk, 263

bags Charcoal Dust, 4,179 bags Matting,

741 pkgs. Tea, 98 pkgs. Cams, 42 boxes

China ware, and 566 pkgs. Sundries.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

MAILS will close:—

For STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND CALCUTTA.

Per VENICE and HINDOSTAN, at 8.30 p.m., on Tuesday, the 13th inst.

For SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

Per HAILONG, at 5 p.m. To-morrow, the 13th inst.

For MANILA.

Per Barque UNDAINE, at 5 p.m. To-morrow, the 13th inst.

Per Ship CRITERION, at 11.30 a.m., on Wednesday, the 14th inst.

For ADELADE, down.

Per Ship HAINING, at 10.30 a.m., on Friday, the 16th inst.

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they have formed a coalition controlling the market in which the trade shall be conducted this year. The *Japan Gazette* reports as follows:—

"There has arisen between some of the Italian growers and the Japanese silk-worms' egg dealers, through the latter being compelled by the coalition of growers and traders in carboys, to regulate a contract to deliver at a certain price. We learn now that, in consequence of representations made by the Italian Consul as to the existence of such a coalition, and its ability to prevent, by pressure brought to bear upon native would-be dealers, sales to foreign exporters, a consultation was held yesterday morning between their Excellencies the Italian Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Such a combination as that existing, it seems, is held by the Italian authorities to be an offence against the freedom of trade, and, contrary, not only to the spirit, but to the very letter of the treaty. In force between Italy and Japan; and we have reason to believe that H. E. T. has been brought to recognize both its irregularity and illegality. Hence intimations should have been, are now, received of His Excellency's decision by the Governor of Kanagawa. "We may add that several complaints having been lodged by Italian grainers at the Consulate of their nation, of non-execution by Japanese merchants of contracts entered into for the delivery of carboys by the latter, who exposed themselves alleging that they were hindered by causes beyond their control. Consul promoted the Kanagawa Saltanah, an embargo upon certain cards in question. This afternoon we learn that the dispute has been settled, and the embargo removed, upon promise made by the Japanese traders to deliver the carboys, subject to the original agreement."—*Shanghai Courier*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council took place this afternoon (12th). There were present:—

His Excellency Mr. John Pope Hennessy, C.M.G., Governor.
The Hon. the Chief Justice, Sir John Smalke.
The Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. C. O. Smith.
The Attorney General, the Hon. G. Phillips.
The Acting Colonial Treasurer, the Hon. C. May.
The Hon. B. Lowcock.
The Hon. J. M. Price.
The Hon. Wm. Keast.
J. d'Almeida e Castro, Esq., Clerk of Council.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE ESTIMATES.

His Excellency, in proposing the Estimates for 1878, spoke for nearly an hour and a half. Want of time necessitated our confining ourselves to a mere outline of his speech. Since the last meeting he had received two despatches from Earl Carnarvon, which he would now lay on the table. The first conveyed Her Majesty's confirmation of Ordinance 6 of 1876, to authorize the appropriation of a supplementary sum not exceeding \$50,000 to defray the charges of 1876, and the second was in reply to Sir Arthur Kennedy's despatches of the 21st and 23rd Nov. last, forwarding the estimates for the year 1877. This second despatch read as follows:—

DOWNING STREET,

21st September, 1877.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of Sir A. Kennedy's Despatches of the 21st and 23rd November last, Nos. 200 and 204, forwarding the Estimates for the year 1877, together with the usual Appropriation Ordinances.

2. I have also received his further Despatch No. 18 of the 29th January, forwarding a list of supplemental votes which have been passed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for services in excess of those provided for in the Estimates.

3. I regret that there should have been such a delay in dealing with these despatches, and I have now to convey my sanction of the Estimates and to the Supplementary votes.

4. As regards the vote, however, of \$30,000 for a new Civil Hospital, it is not probable that any part of this sum will be required in the course of the current year, and I await an answer to my Despatch of the 30th January, No. 8, on Sir A. Kennedy's proposal to convert the Civil Hospital into a Civil Hospital.

5. I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1876 to provide a sum of \$20,000 for the service of the Colony for 1877.

I have, &c.

Governor Hennessy, C.M.G.
do, do, do.

His Excellency continuing, said he had first to draw attention to the financial statement which was placed in his hands immediately on his arrival in the Colony in April last. It was a return of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the year 1876, which was audited on the 4th April 1877, and issued from the Colonial Secretary's office on the 13th April in the same year. As they were aware this return contained the last complete statement of a year's financial transactions in the Colony, he found, on examination, this statement that the revenue for the year 1876 had amounted to \$885,308, whereas the expenditure for the same year had amounted to \$902,500. While the revenue of 1876 was less than the expenditure for that year, it was also less than the revenue for the preceding year, and whilst the expenditure for 1876 was in excess of the revenue it was also in excess of the expenditure of the preceding year. In other words the authorities placed in his hands showed that the revenue of the Colony was declining, and the expenditure was increasing, the latter being in 1876 about \$17,000 in excess of the revenue. Now how was that \$17,000 paid? It came out of the balance in the Colonial chest, which, when the Estimates were framed at the end of the year 1876, amounted to \$134,597. There was no doubt that there was a very respectable balance to have in the chest, and when his predecessor framed the Estimates, the expenditure being in excess of the revenue, everyone must feel that his estimates were framed on a very safe basis. However, that was not the duty, having to face a financial condition such as that, to endeavour on the one hand to stimulate the revenue, and on the other to carefully watch the expenditure. In a Colony like this the responsibility is such matters as these devolved upon the Governor. He had found on his arrival that the

not in accordance with the Treasury instructions prevailed with respect to the placing of estimates before him. On the 25th of May, for example, he received several regulations for expenditure to be incurred during that month. What was the use of placing regulations before him in that manner? The expenditure had been already incurred, and he had no power to check it. He found it was the practice here for heads of departments to send in their regulations towards the end of the month in which the expenditure was actually being incurred. It did not involve much difficulty to comply with the Treasury requirements, and now these matters are worked in accordance with the rules of the Treasury. With reference to the question of revenue, he had been extremely anxious to ascertain how far the revenue they had been receiving in the Colony was a healthy revenue, and how far it might be developed, if necessary, without imposing any further taxation upon the Colony. Now, they estimated the land revenue for the year 1878 at \$200,000. The actual sum collected in the first nine months of the present year under that head was \$94,000, and they expected to get a sum in the three subsequent months that would raise the sum considerably over \$200,000, but they had preferred to place it at \$200,000. He must attribute this healthy state of the revenue to the public works that had been carried out in the Colony. The next item of revenue exclusive of lands he estimated at a few hundred dollars less than the actual sum that would be received beyond that of the land revenue. The sum of the Opium Farm he thought they should endeavour to ascertain whether the farm really brought them in the amount of money it should do. Now in 1876 the Opium Farm had brought them in \$187,000; in 1877 \$183,000, and this year they only received \$182,000. It was a curious fact that whilst they had been getting less for the Opium Farm, the number of chests of opium manipulated had been increasing. The trade in opium here also had been increasing, and so had the Chinese population, and yet the price for the Opium Farm had been declining. In the Straits the price had been increasing. Had the Government acted upon the data furnished by Messrs. Sarsoon in the matter, and which had since been shown to be perfectly accurate, he thought they would have obtained a better price for the Farm. If they depended on Chinese tenders, and presumed everyone was genuine, they were very likely to be misled; if they could not get a proper price for the Farm they must go what the Singapore Government, Saigon Government, the Government of Labuan, had done—threatened to take it into their own hands. When he went to Labuan they were only getting between \$400 and \$500 per month for the Farm; taking upon some advice and data he had, he issued his notification that unless they got \$1,000 per month they would take it into their own hands. The man first of all offered \$800, then \$800, and finally he gave them the \$1,000 they demanded. When he left that little Colony they were getting \$145,000 per month for the Farm. Now thoroughly competent judges were of opinion that the Opium Farm in this Colony, instead of declining in value, was increasing in value, and instead of fetching only \$182,000 it ought to bring in nearly a quarter of a million dollars. They would no doubt be told the old story that if they drove up the price the business of the Farm would go to Macao; similar threats had been made in the other cases, to which he had referred, but did not influence their action. In March 1876 the Farm was sold for three years, so that it would be some time before they would have an opportunity of effecting any improvement in the matter. In regard to the spirit license and pawn-brokers' licenses, he was giving his attention to these matters; but before leaving this subject he would refer to the question of billiard table and bowling alley licenses. A deputation of respectable hotel-keepers had waited upon him and represented that of late years many billiard tables and bowling alleys had been established in this Colony—in Clubs and other places—and, as games of this kind were charged for, they thought either that their own licenses should be taken off, or those in Clubs etc. should be licensed. He thought that was a fair subject for consideration. When he arrived in the Colony they had something like \$80,000 in the bank at 5 per cent. He thought it well to sanction, from time to time additions, and the consequence was that they had now in one bank at 5 per cent \$20,000. There was also at current account \$38,000 at 3 per cent. They were thus able to place the probable balance on 31st December in this year, exclusive of the Special Fund, or any loan connected with it, at \$277,000; in other words, the balance as compared with that of last year (\$134,000) was nearly doubled. In regard to the Stamp Revenue, His Excellency referred to the difficulties experienced and the establishment of a native agency. The Collector had assured him that the steps taken would add \$25,000 a year to the revenue. The junk licenses also showed a most satisfactory increase—\$3,500 this year, and probably \$4,000 next, when he estimated they would amount to \$30,000. On the whole, he thought it was perfectly safe to ask them to estimate the revenue of the Colony at one million four thousand two hundred and forty dollars. This was the first time, he believed, they had been able to estimate the revenue of the Colony at one million of dollars, and this also was the first time that so large a balance was in the hands of the Colonial Treasurer. The revenue of over a million was independent of the balance of \$277,000 dollars.

With respect to expenditure, some time towards the end of September he asked the Finance Committee to consider the Estimates for 1878. It was not usual for a Governor to do so, but he felt that, being fresh to the Colony, he would prefer to profit by their greater local experience and knowledge. In regard to the maintenance of the Public Gardens and plantations, he thought the time was come when the Colony should deal in a more comprehensive manner with the question of tree-planting. Among the documents submitted to the Finance Committee by himself was a very important and interesting report from the Surveyor General on tree-planting. He estimated that the number of trees required to do the work thoroughly would be 17 millions, and that at an average rate of progression, say 17,000 a year, it would take about 1100 years to complete the job. (Laughter.) Last year the rate under this head was \$6000, and this year he proposed an addition of \$8000, which would enable him to plant 25,000 trees.

He also asked them, with a great deal of pleasure, to vote a thousand dollars for the widening of Kennedy Road. His predecessor had put a sum of \$25,000 in his Estimates for the present year for the new Central School, and a larger sum, amounting to \$52,000, was spent upon the site. He, himself, also signed warrants in addition for \$7000 under that head. Well, he had put down \$25,000, but the Secretary of State desired to see further details of the estimates, plans and specifications of the work before anything else was done. Then he had to propose a sum of \$25,000 for a breakwater to save the junk population in typhoons. The plans had been prepared and submitted to competent naval authorities—Admiral Rylor and others, and they would be sent home without further delay for the approval of the Secretary of State, who will submit them to Sir John Coode.

He had also to ask them to vote this year a sum of \$10,000 for altering the Gaol to the separate system. It was established clearly all over the world that this system was the best. They had a smaller number of prisoners in the Gaol at the present time than at the same time last year; still they ought to provide for the maximum number. However, they would, he thought, agree with him that it was desirable to remove the female prisoners to a separate prison, where they would be treated differently from male criminals, and that children should be drafted away to some industrial school or some place of that kind. Although there was only one debtor in prison at the present time, yet he occupied a whole ward, and he thought they would perhaps think with him it might be desirable to abolish imprisonment for debt in the Colony. As the matter stood he had provided for 800 separate cells, and with the women and juveniles sent, these cells would probably meet the requirements. The debtor ward would give room for 24 separate cells.

On his first visit to the prison he found one lunatic fastened with a chain to an inner gate, and another upstairs; and he would ask them to vote the small sum of \$5,000 to provide a Lunatic Asylum, having provision for 8 inmates.

The Finance Committee had had before them, and the Council would shortly receive in print, an interesting and valuable report of the Surveyor General, with a letter upon it from Admiral Rylor, relating to the establishment of a time ball in Victoria Harbour. Thanks to the princely house of Jardine, Matheson & Co., they had a gun at twelve o'clock, and no doubt it was a great boon, but they wanted a time notification in an important harbour like this of the greatest accuracy, and to such an accuracy they must have an Observatory on a small scale. It would enable them to take observations relating to the weather as well as time, and for this object he proposed next year for a commission to expend \$5,000.

With respect to interpretation in the Courts His Excellency said it was disgracefully bad, and added that the matter had been referred to Lord Carnarvon, who would confer on the matter with Dr. Legge. His Excellency then referred to the fact that their best Chinese assistants in the Government service were leaving them, and thought the only remedy would be to give them greater inducements to remain. In conclusion His Excellency touched as some length on the desirability of inducing Chinese to establish family houses in the Colony, as they did in Macao, and said he would give the matter his attention.

The Council was then adjourned till this day week, the 19th inst.

of tree-planting etc. mapped out by the Surveyor General in his report, which would be printed and circulated among them in a few days.

In regard to the hospitals, Sir Arthur Kennedy's plan that the present Lock Hospital, which was too large, should be turned into a Civil Hospital, and that a new Lock Hospital should be built, was one he thought worthy of support, and he asked them, to support it by voting a sum of \$17,000 for the Lock Hospital. When that work was done, they would be able to take the Civil Hospital in hand, probably next year.

Now there was a large vote, as much as \$16,000, for Police Station extension and improvements and, originally when the estimate under this head were sent in to the Governor, the sum was much larger. A visit to Macao, however, had suggested to him the advisability of having steam launches for the water police; he thought they ought to have them, and if they did so, a reduction would take place in the number of police, and the estimate would not be so large. He would therefore propose a vote of \$5000 for the steam launches, etc.

He also asked them, with a great deal of pleasure, to vote a thousand dollars for the widening of Kennedy Road. His predecessor had put a sum of \$25,000 in his Estimates for the present year for the new Central School, and a larger sum, amounting to \$52,000, was spent upon the site. He, himself, also signed warrants in addition for \$7000 under that head. Well, he had put down \$25,000, but the Secretary of State desired to see further details of the estimates, plans and specifications of the work before anything else was done.

Then he had to propose a sum of \$25,000 for a breakwater to save the junk population in typhoons. The plans had been prepared and submitted to competent naval authorities—Admiral Rylor and others, and they would be sent home without further delay for the approval of the Secretary of State, who will submit them to Sir John Coode.

He had also to ask them to vote this year a sum of \$10,000 for altering the Gaol to the separate system. It was established clearly all over the world that this system was the best. They had a smaller number of prisoners in the Gaol at the present time than at the same time last year; still they ought to provide for the maximum number. However, they would, he thought, agree with him that it was desirable to remove the female prisoners to a separate prison, where they would be treated differently from male criminals, and that children should be drafted away to some industrial school or some place of that kind. Although there was only one debtor in prison at the present time, yet he occupied a whole ward, and he thought they would perhaps think with him it might be desirable to abolish imprisonment for debt in the Colony. As the matter stood he had provided for 800 separate cells, and with the women and juveniles sent, these cells would probably meet the requirements. The debtor ward would give room for 24 separate cells.

On his first visit to the prison he found one lunatic fastened with a chain to an inner gate, and another upstairs; and he would ask them to vote the small sum of \$5,000 to provide a Lunatic Asylum, having provision for 8 inmates.

The Finance Committee had had before them, and the Council would shortly receive in print, an interesting and valuable report of the Surveyor General, with a letter upon it from Admiral Rylor, relating to the establishment of a time ball in Victoria Harbour. Thanks to the princely house of Jardine, Matheson & Co., they had a gun at twelve o'clock, and no doubt it was a great boon, but they wanted a time notification in an important harbour like this of the greatest accuracy, and to such an accuracy they must have an Observatory on a small scale. It would enable them to take observations relating to the weather as well as time, and for this object he proposed next year for a commission to expend \$5,000.

With respect to interpretation in the Courts His Excellency said it was disgracefully bad, and added that the matter had been referred to Lord Carnarvon, who would confer on the matter with Dr. Legge. His Excellency then referred to the fact that their best Chinese assistants in the Government service were leaving them, and thought the only remedy would be to give them greater inducements to remain. In conclusion His Excellency touched as some length on the desirability of inducing Chinese to establish family houses in the Colony, as they did in Macao, and said he would give the matter his attention.

The Council was then adjourned till this day week, the 19th inst.

The following is the Ordinance laid on the table:—

An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to apply a sum not exceeding seven hundred and eighty thousand dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1878.

Whereas the expenditure required for the service of this Colony for the year 1878 has been estimated at the sum of seven hundred and seventy-nine thousand four hundred and twenty dollars and fifty-eight cents; Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. A sum not exceeding seven hundred and eighty thousand dollars shall be, and the same is hereby charged upon the revenue of this Colony for the service of the year 1878; and the said sum so charged shall be expended as hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

ESTABLISHMENTS.	
Colonial Secretary	2,708.00
Colonial Treasurer	8,650.00
Colonial Auditor	3,672.60
Auditor General	16,476.00
Clerk of Council	100.00
Surveyor General	27,218.00
Government Gardens	4,238.80
Postmaster General	81,008.00
Registrar General	11,626.00
Harbour Master	27,170.00
Lighthouse	7,424.00
Collector of Stamp Revenue	4,812.00
Judicial	21,884.00
Registrar of Companies	192.00
Notaries Public	1,186.00
Educational	17,436.00
Medical	14,852.00
Police Magistrates	9,994.00
Police	140,768.80
Gaol	16,716.00
Fire Brigade	5,560.00

Total Establishments, \$779,420.65

China.
SHANGHAI.
(Continued.)

We hear on good authority that a despatch has arrived from Peking, ordering the rails of the Woosung Railway to be taken up and sent to Formosa, and tenders to be accepted for the permanent way, stations, and rolling stock.

We really think that the clerk of the weather has been too severe upon us this autumn in awarding us such very soft weather for our holidays. The morning on all three days has been under difficulties, but this third day, after the soaking rain of yesterday, and the two preceding days, has been particularly trying. The lower ground all through and round the settlement has been under water, and whilst many of the Chinese houses have had to bale the water out of their basement floor, outside of them, except upon the made streets, has been a swamp. The creeks have been swollen, and everything moist and uncomfortable. Under these circumstances, the holidays are brought to an abrupt close; and as regards the races, the committee have acted very judiciously in postponing the Grand National Steeple-chase and the fourth day's sport to Saturday afternoon. By that time we may hope such a change may have taken place as will permit us to speak of the course as in good condition.

We learn from Cheong that the British barque *Aurora*, which was driven ashore on the night of the 10th Oct. last, was loaded without any damage being done. She took in her original cargo (samsun) and left for Tientsin. Vessels in port on the 11th Nov.—*Capella, Norma, Blankenese, Anglo, Novaeu, Mondelli, Morro Castle, Wealthy Penitentiary, Alceste, Ada Winiell, and Hieronimus*.

The S.S. *Apin*, belonging to the O.C.S.N. Co., which arrived here (Shanghai) yesterday (Nov. 6th), states in her report that at 3.15 p.m. on the 3rd instant, she met the O.C.S.N. Co. steamer *Footchow*, about 150 miles from Shanghai, having broken her shaft. She took her in tow to within 3 miles E. of Shanghai, where in consequence of the very heavy gale of wind that was blowing from N.W., and the high sea, both ships dropped their anchors on the 4th at midnight. At 4 a.m. on the 5th, the weather was so bad, that it was impossible to take the *Footchow* in tow again, but she signalled, asking that assistance might be sent. On arrival here yesterday the S.S. *Footchow* was despatched to render aid, leaving about 11 p.m. last night, and she arrived about five o'clock this afternoon with the *Footchow* in tow. It is said the latter has broken her screw shaft.

Our morning contemporary is slightly inaccurate in his particulars about the Loan. Bonds have not been given for payment of the sum of Tls. 7,000,000, but for the equivalent of the capital \$1,604,000 and interest, in sterling, according to schedule; this sum might be Tls. 8,000,000, if exchange went low enough, or Tls. 6,000,000 if it went high enough. Nor is he quite correct in saying that the Imperial Government fully guarantees the Loan. The Loan is contracted with the Imperial Government of China, and secured by their late acquisitions at Tokan, on the confines of Yakub Khan's territory, but the attempt appears to have resulted in disaster.

After the rather varied statements which have been made, regarding the new Chinese loan, it may interest our readers to know how the funds stand. The loan is for \$1,604,278, on which the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank gets interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, and is secured upon the revenues of the Shanghai, Hankow, Ningpo and Canton Customs. Bonds to the amount of Tls. 7,000,000, have been deposited with the Bank as security, and the Imperial Government has further fully guaranteed the loan. The last of the necessary documents having been received on Thursday, the *Yakub Khan*, through whom the negotiations have been carried on, was duly notified that the money was at his disposal. He began removing the sycee accordingly, on the following day, and has already taken about Tls. 8,000,000. It is said, however, that only about 30 lakhs are likely to be shipped away from Shanghai, and the process is likely to extend over a month; so that there is certainly no immediate fear of lightness in the money market.

So much as regards the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Imperial Government—As regards placing the loan, the rate of issue will probably be 488 per hundred-pound bond, which will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, and the bonds will probably be offered to the public in about a month or six weeks from the present date.

We hear that a collision occurred between the French mail steamer *Andree* and the British ship *Corvina*, about seven o'clock on Wednesday evening. The *Corvina* was left here that morning for Swatow, and was a few hundred yards past the Beacon when the collision occurred. The *Andree* was such that she returned to port yesterday (Nov. 6th) afternoon. It was not known at the Immigration Marine office, last evening, what damage the *Andree* had sustained, but it was believed not to be extensive.

The storm of the 11th October seems to have been the most severe and extensive in its course that has visited the China and Japan Seas for some years. According to the following account, which has been kindly furnished to us by a passenger who was on board the steamer *Strathairn* when on her passage from this port to Kobe, that vessel was in serious danger, and at one time was actually given up for lost by all on board.

We left Yokohama October 10th at 11 a.m. for Kobe. When off Varles Island passed the *Glennard* and at 7 p.m. the *Thabor*, both inward bound, the weather then being perfectly fine. At daylight next day passed the barque *Awajima Maru*. At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, rounded Oshima Light, and expected to make the run from Yokohama to Kobe in about 24 hours. At 6 p.m. we were well up the Kii channel, a fresh breeze blowing at the time, and the weather setting in thick. At 8.30 p.m. there was much rain and fog, and it was blowing hard, the barometer also falling fast. The ship's head was put to the southward, the engines going dead slow, everything having been made snug in anticipation of a fresh gale. At midnight the gale was still increasing, with a mountainous sea running, the barometer being 29.40 and still falling. At 5 a.m. it was blowing a perfect hurricane, the ship labouring very heavily, and even rolling her masts under water. At 5 a.m. the ship was on her beam ends, the barometer still falling, and there being every indication that the ship was working into the centre of a typhoon. Those on the bridge could not see the forepart of the vessel for spray. The wind was blowing to the southward, and the sea making a clean sweep over the ship. At this time the cargo broke loose, and there seemed little chance of saving the vessel, as the barometer continued falling, being then 29.15. The boat crews were blown to pieces and one boat smashed. All this time a fearful sea was running; 20 miles in

occurred through the inconvenient position of the opium hulks, another has been added, and, although not loaded with any serious result, it is worthy of mention as an additional straw to the load of reasons for some practical action to be taken upon the correspondence that has recently passed between the Municipal Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Commissioners of Customs, as to the removal of the opium hulks. Between ten and twelve o'clock yesterday morning (Nov. 7th), four steamers were signalled to arrive—the *Peking* and *Haeian* from Ningpo and the *Kiangshing* and *Shanghai* from Hankow—all of which had to hark in the upper portion of the river. The *Peking* arrived first, and just at the time the *Yano* and the English and French mail steamers were directly athwart the river, swimming to the tide. There appeared scarcely room for the *Peking* to pass between them and the unsightly opium hulks; but not far behind her were the *Haeian* and the *Kiangshing*, and had she waited it would, of course, have involved delay, and perhaps placed her followers in an awkward predicament. However, she continued on her course, and the result was that her starboard paddle-box was stove in by coming in contact with the hulk *Emily Jane*, and several cargo boats narrowly escaped being swamped. Fortunately, when the *Haeian* and the *Kiangshing* came up, the mail steamers had swung further round and they passed clear, as did also the *Shanghai*. But, as is well known, there is always danger of collision at this point, at every turn of the tide; and we can only repeat what we have so often urged, that the removal of the opium hulks would not only rid the Bund of an eyesore, but also remove a great part of the danger and difficulty of berthing vessels of any kind in the upper reaches of the river.

The auction known as the Box Long wharf, on the French Bund, has been submitted, sold by auction, under a decree of the Court of the United States Consulate-General. The bidding commenced at Tls. 500, and advanced in small amounts to Tls. 1,005, at which sum the pontoon was knocked down. Mr. Seabrooke was the purchaser, and, it was said, was acting on behalf of Mr. A. Malcolm, to satisfy whose claim the sale took place.

Another case of abduction occurred in this Settlement, on Monday last. It seems that a girl about sixteen years of age, of respectable parentage, and belonging to a place known as Ching-tu, about 60 miles distant, was visiting some friends in Shanghai. She became acquainted with a man named Wang, who on Monday induced her to take a drive with him, saying he would take her to see the races. Wang, however, seemed to have laid his plans very carefully, for, instead of taking the girl to the races, he drove by the French road to Sincowai, and to the bank of the Soochow Creek at a point where a boat lay moored. The poor girl, it is said, was forced on board the boat, was cast loose, and started up the creek. All efforts have as yet failed to discover her whereabouts.

NANKING.

29th October, 1877.

The crops during the past year have been fair. The remarkably heavy rains during the summer checked the ravages of the grasshoppers, but they are spread over the country and will be ready by next spring to resume operations on a large scale. I have recently heard through native sources from the Yellow River region, and find that grasshoppers have ravaged certain sections; but the most of the people in the districts through which my informant has passed are not in any danger of any immediate distress. He had not been as far northwest as Shensi, but has heard of gloomy prospects there.

A large number of disreputable houses were suppressed a few weeks ago and the gamblers have since received some attention. One who was brought in from the country last week took opium in a yamen, but foreign assistance being promptly called in, he recovered. Opium poisoning seems to be on the increase, whatever the cause may be. The great topic of interest just now is the opium question. Within the last three or four days, opium smokers have discovered that there has been a sudden advance in the price of the drug. I have heard that the increase in price is as much as 40 per cent, but do not know. There are many conjectures as to the cause, and wherever a foreigner appears he is promptly questioned about the matter. Rumours have been in circulation of the disturbance in Manchuria. The story is that the Russians are secretly encouraging the revolt and that a special messenger has come from Peking with the tidings. It is even said that soldiers are to be sent from Nanking. We give the story for what it is worth.—*Shanghai Courier*.

THE "STRATHAIRN" IN A TYPHOON.

The storm of the 11th October seems to have been the most severe and extensive in its course that has visited the China and Japan Seas for some years. According to the following account, which has been kindly furnished to us by a passenger who was on board the steamer *Strathairn* when on her passage from this port to Kobe, that vessel was in serious danger, and at one time was actually given up for lost by all on board.

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Bank, on demand, ... 8/10
" 30 days' sight, ... 3/10
" 60 days' sight, ... 3/11
Credits, ... 3/11
Documentary, 6 months' sight, ... 3/11
Bombay, demand Rupees, ... 220
Calcutta, ... 220
Shanghai, demand, ... 72 1/2
" 30 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 60 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 90 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 120 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 150 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 180 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 210 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 240 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 270 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 300 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 330 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 360 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 390 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 420 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 450 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 480 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 510 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 540 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 570 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 600 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 630 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 660 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 690 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 720 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 750 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 780 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 810 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 840 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
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" 1020 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1050 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1080 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1110 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1140 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1170 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1200 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1230 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1260 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1290 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1320 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1350 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1380 days' sight, ... 72 1/2
" 1410

Merchant Vessels in Hongkong Harbour

50. 51. 52.
 China Mail Office, 2, Wyndham Street
 (Back of Club).

Hongkong, January 1, 1974

10-10-1977

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